

ANGLER GUIDE

In the upper St. Francis River, anglers can expect good fishing for all three species of black bass. Spotted bass and largemouth bass are more common in the riffle/pool habitats and smallmouth bass are more common in the shut-ins from Hwy. 72 to Silvermines (Hwy. D). Black bass greater than 12 inches are common with some greater than 15 inches. Shadow bass (goggle-eye) angling is fair, with most fish between five and seven inches, plus some greater than eight inches. Anglers have good success catching channel catfish. Most channel catfish are 12 to 24 inches long. Gigging for redhorse suckers is good from Grunner Ford Access (Hwy. H) in St. Francois Co. to Wappapello Lake. Small walleye were stocked throughout the river, from 1996 to 1999, to restore the population. To protect these fish, harvest of walleye and sauger is not permitted in Wappapello Lake, the St. Francis River above the lake, or their tributaries. All walleye must be returned to the water unharmed immediately.

In the lower St. Francis River, fishing for spotted bass and largemouth bass is fair in the unchannelized portion of the river between Wappapello Dam and Kennett (Hwy. 84). Few fish are greater than 12 inches. Spotted bass are more common from Kennett (Hwy. 84) to the Arkansas state line, with good numbers of fish up to 15 inches long. There are many six- to eight-inch bluegill for several miles below Wappapello Dam. Fair numbers of bluegill are present throughout the remainder of the unchannelized portion of the river. Trotlines and limblines produce some nice stringers of channel catfish. Most of the channel catfish are less than 22 inches long. Large buffalo and gar and an occasional flathead catfish, white bass, or drum could be encountered anywhere on the river.